THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Tuesday, 29th December 1953.

The House met in the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at eleven of the clock, Mr. Chairman (THE HON. DR. P. V. CHERIAN) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Revision of the Five-Year Plan for the residuary Madras State.

* 11 *Q.*—SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM: Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Five-Year Plan relating to this State has been revised consequent on the separation of the Andhra State; and

(*b*) if so, whether the Government will be pleased to lay on the table of the House a list of schemes in this State included in the Five-Year Plan as now revised, showing the estimated cost of each of the items?

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI:—" (*a*) & (*b*) Consequent on the formation of the Andhra State, the Five-Year Plan of the composite Madras State has to be split up as for the 'Andhra', 'Mysore' and 'Madras' States and revised, where necessary. This is now being done. After the plan for the residuary Madras State is finalized, action will be taken to inform the Members of the Legislature of the progress made so far."

SRI V. CHAKKARAI CHETTY:—" May I ask, Sir, whether in view of the revision of the Plan as between the Andhra State, Madras State and the Mysore State, it will be the same more or less as it was previously or it will be detrimental to the progress of the Madras State?"

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI:—" It cannot be detrimental, Sir. We are trying our best to see that all the component parts get justice. Roughly I might say that the Plan may be broken into 51½ crores of rupees for Andhra, 78·80 crores for Madras and 5·54 crores for Mysore."

SRI V. CHAKKARAI CHETTY:—" So, it is not disadvantageous."

Appointment of women officers to arrest women offenders and criminals.

* 12 *Q.*—DR. S. MUTHULAKSHMI REDDI: Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any women officers are appointed to arrest and escort women offenders and women criminals to respective police stations and to look after them, during their stay under remand; and

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(*b*) if the answer to clause (*a*) is in the negative, whether the Government have any proposal to train and appoint women officers for the above purpose?

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" (*a*) & (*b*) There are no women Police in our State as yet. There has been a suggestion but we have deferred consideration of the subject."

SRI V. CHAKKARAI CHETTY :—" In some other States, women police are employed. When such is the case, why should not our Government also employ women police? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" It is true that in some States, they have started such schemes. We are also likely to do it. But it is one of the very good things that unfortunately has to wait for some time."

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM :—" May I ask why there is discrimination against women in this State in the matter of recruitment to the Police force? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" The discrimination is based on physical nature." (Laughter.)

DR. S. MUTHULAKSHMI REDDI :—" May I know from the Government whether, in view of the fact that even innocent women without any proof of any offence are arrested and taken to the police station by men officers, it is desirable that this Government should take up the consideration of this very important question at once? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" The delay is more or less due to inadequate financial resources and not to any issue as to the desirability of having women police to deal with women offenders. I have looked up the whole file and I find—I cannot give the name—an old Minister has written 'May be dropped for the present. We have no money to spend on colourful facilities.' " (Laughter.)

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM :—" Are women lawyers employed to defend women offenders? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" Women lawyers are not necessarily better for women than men lawyers. Perhaps it may be said that in both cases it is the other way about, for, a woman lawyer may carry more weight even in the defence of men. But the question is not about lawyers. The question is one dealing with the earlier stages of investigation, arresting for trial and the like, and, therefore, it may be very desirable that women should deal with women. But all depends upon how we arrange it. We cannot rush them about wherever they are suddenly wanted. The total number of women awaiting trial—that is woman criminality —will be considerably large and we have got to attend to all these offenders. Further, the expenses of dealing with

women as Police officials, in the matter of housing accommodation and other services specially required, if we introduce a new element will be much greater than we expect and so this scheme has to wait."

Sri V. CHAKKARAI CHETTY :—" Do the Government think that employment of women police will increase the number of women criminals? "

The Hon. Sri C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" I think so. The hon. Member has given us very good thought for consideration. In fact one of the main deterrents of crime is the fear of having to be dealt with by the Police. This may be reduced if we introduce women police. Apart from other things, I think we should not coddle criminals too much. Criminality may increase as suggested."

Sri T. PURUSHOTHAM :—" Are there any women executive officers in other Departments of Government? "

The Hon. Sri C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" There are some in some other departments. The hon. Member is looking at the question from the point of view of employing women in all directions in the Police and not as the main questioner intends. So far as dealing with the question, irrespective of women offenders, is concerned, there is room for considerable difference of opinion."

Dr. S. MUTHULAKSHMI REDDI :—" The Hon. the Chief Minister has said that the former Minister for Home wrote that the scheme should be deferred. May I know why the new Ministry under Rajaji should not consider the question immediately in view of its importance? "

The Hon. Sri C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" I referred to that file only by way of self-defence and it is not particularly my own prejudice. It seems to me there has been a longstanding fear as to the proportion between the utility and the amount of money required to be spent for this proposal."

Sri MOHAMAD RAZA KHAN :—" As women have got too much of a tendency for discussion, does not the Hon. the Chief Minister feel, if women are appointed in the Police Department, investigations will go on indefinitely without producing any results? " (Laughter.)

The Hon. Sri C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" That is also true. But I would like to submit to hon. Members that the likelihood is that women will be harsher in their dealings with women."

Dr. S. MUTHULAKSHMI REDDI :—" I object to the statement of the hon. Gentleman opposite that investigations will be prolonged if women were employed in the Police Department. We must then apply this to our household first and see whether women could be dispensed with in the domestic circle."

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THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" They cannot be dispensed with where discussion is necessary." (Laughter.)

Introduction of a shortened medical course.

* 13 Q.—DR. C. NATHAMUNI NAIDU : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have under consideration any proposal to introduce a shortened medical course in the Madras State;

(b) if so, the period of training and how the trainees will be designated;

(c) the minimum qualification prescribed for selection and the emoluments or scales of pay fixed for them after the training; and

(d) whether the Indian Medical Association has been consulted in this matter?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (a) Yes.

" (b) *to* (d) In the meanwhile the Central Ministry of Health have suggested a scheme for training of workers for medical and health work in rural areas. Decision in regard to some short course will be taken in due course."

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM :—" Is there any proposal to appoint junior medical officers called hospital assistants in State Service? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" No, Sir. The proposal is to create a new type of auxiliary personnel for medical and health work in rural areas."

Retention of non-clinical professors in service after superannuation.

* 14 Q.—SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether non-clinical Professors in Madras Medical Service have been ordered by the Government to be retained in service till the age of 60 years; and

(b) whether the rule is applicable to cases where qualified assistants and probationers are available to replace the professors on their attaining the age of superannuation?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (a) The Government have decided that the existing incumbents of the posts of non-clinical Professors should be re-employed up to the age of 60 years from the date of their superannuation, but that such re-employment should be made for a period of one year at a time subject to the physical fitness of the Professors concerned.